1988 and January 1989, was as follows :—

Years	Average rate of delays/ cancellations
1986	24.77
1987	25.59
1988	37.64
January 1989	48.95

(b) Due to capacity constraints there has been increase in the consequential delays which resulted in increase in average rate of delays to Indian Airlines flights.

(c) No statistics of delays of foreign airlines on their domestic routes are available.

(d) The following steps have been taken to curtail delays to Indian Airlines flights;

(i) Overall utilisation of Boeing aircraft has been reduced so as to provide stand by capacity at base stations;

(ii) Additional aircraft have been leased from various sources; and

(iii) Punctuality of flights is being constantly monitored at various levels.

Refusal to expand Vayudoot operations

90. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has refused to allow expansion of Vayudoot operations; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has not been against expansion of short distance flights by Vayudoot. However, they are of the opinion that since such operations increase fuel consumption par Revenue Passenger Kilometre which would in turn nacessitate higher passenger fares the situation needs to be avoided.

New air safety rules

91. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate new air safety rules in view of the expansion of air fleet and also the inclusion of new aircraft from abroad;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the pilots are able to fly foreign aircraft in a safe manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) As and when need arises the rules are modified.

(b) At present there is no proposal to amend the rules and as such no details can be given.

(c) The pilots fly the aircraft after adequate training and receiving the appropriate licences.

Acquisition of Yak-42 aircraft from USSR

92. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vayudoot proposed to acquire 120-seater Russian Aircraft Yak-42 from April, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of this aircraft as compared to other aircraft being manufactured by well known companies;

(c) whether the Vayudoot intend to operate these aircraft on long-haul routes only; and